

**Item ID Number** 05382 ☐ **Not Scanned**

**Author**

**Corporate Author**

**Report/Article Title** Press Release: Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee Action  
Labeled Insult to Illinois General Assembly and Citizens  
of Illinois, dated September 16, 1982

**Journal/Book Title**

**Year** 1982

**Month/Day** September 16

**Color** ☐

**Number of Images** 2

**Description Notes**

**OFFICERS:**

**CHAIRMAN**  
**SENATOR KARL BERNING**

**CO-CHAIRMAN**  
**REPRESENTATIVE JOHN T. O'CONNELL**

**VICE CHAIRMAN**  
**SENATOR SAM M. VADALABENE**

**SECRETARY**  
**JAMES B. KING**



**STATE OF ILLINOIS**  
**AGENT ORANGE STUDY COMMISSION**  
**ROOM 218 • CAPITOL BUILDING**  
**SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706**  
**AREA CODE 217/762-5336**

**PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR**  
**JOAN MAIMAN**

**ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY**  
**RECEIVED - H/O (102)**

**SEP 20 1982**

**SPECIAL ASST. TO CMD**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 16, 1982**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS**

**SENATORS:**

**KARL BERNING**  
**DEERFIELD**

**KARLEAN COLLINS**  
**CHICAGO**

**WILLIAM F. MAHAR**  
**HOMESWOOD**

**SAM M. VADALABENE**  
**EDWARDSVILLE**

**VETERANS' AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION LABELED**

**INSULT TO ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND**

**CITIZENS OF ILLINOIS**

Senator Karl Berning, R-Deerfield, Chairman of the Illinois Agent Orange Study Commission, labeled the actions of the Oversight Committee of the Veterans' Affairs Committee of the U.S. House as "an insult to the Illinois General Assembly and the citizens of Illinois."

**REPRESENTATIVES:**

**SUZANNE L. DEUCHLER**  
**AURORA**

**LAWRENCE DIPRIMA**  
**CHICAGO**

**JOHN T. O'CONNELL**  
**LAGRANGE**

**ROBERT J. PIEL**  
**SOUTH HOLLAND**

Berning was referring to the manner in which the testimony of the Illinois delegation was heard by the subcommittee September 15th in Washington, D.C.

**PUBLIC MEMBERS:**

**LARRY J. BESSON**  
**STONINGTON**

**GEORGE R. CRAMER**  
**WOODRIDGE**

**JAMES B. KING**  
**MT. VERNON**

**JOAN M. MAIMAN**  
**CHICAGO**

**PHILIP H. VISION**  
**DEERFIELD**

The Illinois delegation consisting of Berning, State Representative John T. O'Connell, D-Western Springs, Co-Chairman of the Commission and a Vietnam veteran; and Commissioner Joan Maiman, a civilian Vietnam veteran was ask to testify after a recess had been called for voting. The acting chairman of the subcommittee, Congressman Bob Stump, D-Arizona gaveled the meeting to order with no other member or staff present.

Although the Illinois delegation offered to remain until more members were present Stump did not believe

Ad 1

it was necessary to wait despite the fact that the Illinois delegation was the only out of town group present.

"We made the trip especially to present the concerns of the citizens of Illinois regarding Agent Orange at the invitation of the Chairman of the Committee, G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery of Mississippi," Berning added. The Illinois delegation summed up its visit with the following comment: "We hope the conduct of Congressman Stump on behalf of the committee does not represent the policy of the federal government towards the states in the Agent Orange matter. We had a story to tell and unfortunately there was no one there to listen when we were asked to tell it."

###